



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**MOLLY M. SPEARMAN**  
*STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION*

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District Superintendents  
Instructional Leaders

**FROM:** Julie G. Fowler, Ph.D.  
Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness

**DATE:** February 8, 2017

**RE:** Diploma Pathway Project

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has been working on the Diploma Pathway Project internally since spring 2016. In June 2016, the SCDE convened an external stakeholder group to examine the current diploma structure through the lens of building personalized pathways based on students' postsecondary goals and the alignment to the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate.

The SCDE is pleased to announce that the initial phase of the Diploma Pathway Project has concluded whereby we have developed the new diploma framework and proposed legislation. After many stakeholder presentations, the SCDE received feedback that informed legislation to be introduced later this month. A copy of the PowerPoint and information sheet is posted on the SCDE's home page, <http://ed.sc.gov>, and may be used for communication with stakeholders.

The SCDE will be asking superintendents and instructional leaders to submit names for the next phases of work needed to support the Personalized Pathway, Seals of Distinction, and the Employability Credential established in phase one. This work will include identifying the integrated and applied courses to count for math, English, science, and social studies. Work to support the employability credential includes developing a guidance document, specifying guard rails, defining criteria, and the development of the programs of study.

Additionally, the SCDE will be presenting an overview of the Diploma Pathway Project to school counselors at their March 9 meeting. Future training will include details such as the use of PowerSchool to record data for transcripts, graduation, and the seals.

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The SCDE is ready to convene work groups to develop the support resources necessary for professional development and implementation as noted above. Please send nominations to Ms. Crystal Dennis at [cdennis@ed.sc.gov](mailto:cdennis@ed.sc.gov).